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SUBJECT: OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL INTERVENTION: KILLING OF
JOURNALIST IN KYRGYZSTAN

¶1. (U) Post is authorized to present the following statement
at the July 23 Permanent Council meeting in Vienna.

Begin text:

Thank you, Madame Chairwoman.

In the last four months, there have been several attacks on
journalists in Kyrgyzstan. The reprehensible attack in Osh,
Kyrgyzstan, on independent journalist Almaz Tashiyev, was the
latest such incident. According to independent news sources,
Mr. Tashiyev sustained grave injuries after being severely
beaten by police officers on July 4th, and subsequently died
in a hospital on July 12th. Our heartfelt sympathies go out
to his family.

As the Representative on Freedom of the Media Miklos Haraszti
told the Permanent Council on July 2nd, this wave of attacks
against journalists is threatening media pluralism in
Kyrgyzstan.

We take note that the Kyrgyz authorities have launched an
investigation on the assault against Mr. Tashiyev, have
arrested one police officer and dismissed a police chief for
their roles in the crime. We urge that these efforts to
bring the attackers to justice continue. We also call on the
Kyrgyz authorities to investigate with the same vigor other
unresolved cases this year involving journalists, including
the June 6th attack on Abduvahab Moniev, a journalist with
"Achik Sayosat" in Bishkek.

Madam Chairwoman, journalists and free media are essential to
a democratic and open society, and should be able to work
without fear or intimidation. The United States reaffirms its
commitment to media freedom and calls upon Kyrgyzstan and all
OSCE participating States to take appropriate steps to
protect media workers, including investigation and
prosecuting those responsible of harming or threatening
journalists.

Thank you, Madame Chairwoman.
CLINTON